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pared for publication, and on which he had endorsed "Diary of Captain Thomas T. Underwood." In looking over the journals of that period, in the Draper manuscripts, it was found that the one ascribed to Posey was endorsed upon the title page: "Sent me by Ch^s Campbell, Esq^r the historian of Petersburg, Va. L. C. D." A further search disclosed (Draper MSS. 10DD60) a letter dated April 10, 1846, from Charles Campbell to Doctor Draper saying: "An old soldier died here a year or two since, who had served under Wayne in his Indian campaign on the Ohio & kept a diary during that time. He was rather illiterate but some of his details are not uninteresting. I have thought of printing the diary in a newspaper." The extract in Mr. Whittey's possession begins at Camp Deposit, August 19, 1794. On page 28 of the original journal in the Draper collection a heavy black line has been drawn at the date August 19, where begin the words, "The General Calls this place Camp deposite" — no doubt the transcriber's mark of his point of departure.

These indications appear to establish definitely the authorship of the journal in Draper MSS. 16U. This should be noted especially in connection with R. C. McGrane's notes on "William Clark's journal of Wayne's campaign" published in the *MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW*, 1:418-444, where the journal now discovered to be Underwood's is repeatedly cited as "Posey's."

LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG

DETROIT DURING THE REVOLUTION

The author of the subjoined letter was Richard Butler, an Irish soldier and officer in the American revolution. He came to America some years before that war and was stationed at Pittsburgh in 1776 as appears by this letter. The following year he was made lieutenant colonel in Morgan's corps and served with distinction throughout the war. The advice given in his letter was not acted upon, principally because there were not enough troops available to undertake the expedition.

After the termination of the war, General Richard Butler remained in the regular service and, for a time, was in the Indian department in Ohio. In the early part of 1791 he was stationed at Pittsburgh and there joined the expedition under General St.

Clair that proceeded against the Indians. In the engagement with the Indians, known as St. Clair's defeat, in Mercer county, Ohio, November 4, 1791, Butler was killed. In the history of this battle it is stated that he was seriously wounded very early in the contest. A piece of "poetry" written on the occasion says:

"He leaned his back against a tree, and there resigned his
breath,

And like a valiant soldier sunk in the arms of Death."

The Indians were left in charge of the battlefield and of the dead soldiers. Upon General Butler's body was found a leather pouch containing a number of letters which he had received at Pittsburgh in the early spring of 1791. This pouch and letters were taken and retained by the Indians. They did not give them up to the British authorities as was their habit with most of the plunder of this character. I obtained the pouch and letters from the Indians several years since, and they are now in the Burton Library. The letters were published in 1907 in the *Magazine of History*.

C. M. BURTON

BUTLER TO WILSON, March 18, 1776

[Burton Library — A. L. S.]

March 18th 1776 FORT PITT

SIR

By the late Acct^s from the Indian Country, I find that there is great qnty^a of goods Coming to the Delaware towns in the Name of Bawbee the Trader, Which Causes much Surmise here As the frontier people are very Dubious of the Integrity of the Indians, I think in Reality there ought to be no time lost in Reducing Detroit to the American Interest although it is not a place very Essential to Us in many Respects, yet with Regard to the Peace of the Frontier which is very large in Extent and much under the Power of the Savage Tribes it is Always in the Power of the People who Posses that post to Prompt the Indians to do what they Please, therefore if in ours it would be Easy to keep them quiet, as they would then see and know their Dependance on us, I know it is generally thought that in Case the Quebeck is Reduced (which I hope is the Case Ere now) that both Detroit and Niagara must fall, True, Niagara must As they have no Settlement to Support them, but the Detroit Except it be Capitulated for At the Reduction of Quebeck, may Stand without any other Source of Supply this Seven Years by the Set-

tlement with Regard to the Article of Provision, As to their other Stores you are Already acquainted with, And the quantitys of goods that the Merchants has I believe is great as they Sell in the woods very low; for these Reasons and the Sattisfaction it would be to the Publick in general, (in Case of a great Effort of the Brittons this Summer) to think there would be no Danger of an Enemy on our backs and it is too well known that the Savages is a very Severe Enemy, I am Induced to lay these hints before you, I hope you will Pardon my Attempt on the Subject as is Not by way of Dictation, but my Opinion, and wish to see the Peace of this Country Secure that we might without Regret Spare A Number of good Soldiers to Assist our Brethren on the Sea Coast; I Should not have ventured So far on the Subject but that I know you will place it to the proper Acc^t D^r Sir I Shall be glad to hear from you and have your Instructions and Advice; I hope you will Please make my most Respectfull Compliments to Doctor Franklin, And Believe me to be with Sincerity your most Obedient Humble Servant

RICH^d BUTLER Ag^t and Int^t.

TO COLONELL JAMES WILLSON

P, S, M^r Sims the lawyer told me that M^r Harvey says, that M^r Jefferson Never mentioned the affairs Relative to the Boundaries of this Province to Convention of Virginia.

The Copyy of the last Treaty Enclosed the first oportunity as I find it will be wanted.

WORK ON THE CUMBERLAND ROAD

Among the manuscripts recently deposited in the Virginia State Library by the auditor, there came to light the bill of John Kinkead and William McBride for superintending the clearing of a road over the Cumberland mountains. It is well known that Virginia in the session of the general assembly which met in October, 1779, passed a law authorizing that such a road be cleared.¹ No evidence has heretofore been available to show the extent of the work done on the road. The law stated that a wagon road was desirable to Kentucky, but that on account of its passing through an uninhabitable country, it could not be made by adjacent inhabitants, nor could the practicability or charge be properly judged of, until the country had been explored and such road traced out. Evan Shelby and Richard Callaway were appointed commissioners to explore the country

¹ *Hening's statutes*, 10:143.